

NEWS

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CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH INVESTIGATES 4 CASES OF SALMONELLA

BOISE, Idaho, December 6, 2002 – Since Dec. 3, four confirmed cases of Salmonella enteritidis, a diarrheal illness, have been reported to the Central District Health Department (CDHD). All cases have occurred in the Boise area, and all are linked to the consumption of contaminated eggs.

Salmonella is characterized by nausea, headache, abdominal cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever. Symptoms can occur 6 to 72 hours after the contaminated food is eaten and last several days.

“Our investigation found that these cases were a result of people eating eggs that weren’t thoroughly cooked,” said Kathy Holley, CDHD director. “We are urging people to only eat properly cooked eggs and other food, and to avoid using raw eggs in holiday foods like ice cream, egg nog, hollandaise sauce and Caesar salad dressing,” she said.

Holley also warned that food can be cross contaminated if not handled properly. “If someone handles contaminated raw eggs or poultry, then prepares a salad without washing their hands, that salad can become contaminated from their hands,” she said. “If there is one message we want people remember, it is to wash your hands repeatedly when preparing food.”

The people most susceptible to the Salmonella bacteria are the elderly, the very young, and those who are immunocompromised. People with severe symptoms should consult a physician.

For more information call the Central District Health Department communicable disease unit at 327-8625.